2026 Federal Funding Impact Survey

Greater Lowell Nonprofit Partners | February 2026

The Greater Lowell Community Foundation surveyed 41 nonprofit organizations to understand how federal funding changes are affecting our region's nonprofit sector and the communities they serve. This follow-up to our Fall 2025 survey reveals that challenges persist and, for many organizations, have intensified. The findings underscore the need for flexible funding, strategic collaboration, and sustained support for organizations serving our most vulnerable residents.

Bottom Line: More than half of respondents (54%) experienced direct federal funding cuts, while an additional 10% report indirect impacts through partners—affecting **64% of the sector overall.**

41	54%	66%
Organizations Surveyed	Direct Federal Cuts	Concerned About Sustainability

Conditions Since Fall 2025

37% report conditions have worsened
39% describe mixed conditions
Only 1 organization reports improvement

Top Operational Impacts

22 orgs: Increased staff workload/stress
14 orgs: Reduced client capacity
13 orgs: Eliminated programs/services

What Organizations Need Most

37 orgs: Unrestricted/flexible funding
22 orgs: Program-specific funding
19 orgs: Partnership opportunities
18 orgs: Capacity-building support

Populations Most Affected

24 orgs report impact: Low-income families
19 orgs: Immigrants/undocumented individuals
19 orgs: Children/youth
14 orgs: Seniors

Response Strategies

35 orgs: Applied for foundation grants
35 orgs: Increased individual donations
22 orgs: Pursued state/local funding
13 orgs: Dipped into reserves

86% of organizations are interested in collaborating with nonprofit partners on shared challenges

Voices from the Field

"We are incredibly grateful that individual and foundation donors have stepped up with funding to help us address food insecurity."

"Unrestricted, multi-year support helps our organization respond quickly to challenges and needs of the community."

"We need to break the barrier of competing with each other and make more collaborations... We need to find ways to come together as we do not serve all the communities, but to rely on each other to create a bigger impact."

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